(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government have been formulating policies for boosting exports of textiles including blended and synthetic fabrics from time to time. The main steps taken in this regard are indicated in the statement attached. (*See* below).

Statement

The following steps have been taken to boost the export of textile goods including synthetic and blended fabrics:

(i) The Government permits import of 4 types of sophisticated textile machines at a concessional rate of import duty of 25 per cent provided the importer exports 5 times the value of machinery over and above the average exports of the exporter during the preceding 3 years. In addition to the existing scheme, the modified export obligation scheme permits imports with an export obligation for exporting 75 per cent of the production for 5 years. The importer is allowed to choose any one of the two obligations.

(ii) A textile modernisation fund of Rs 750 crores has been created for facilitation of modernisation of Textile Industry.

(iii) The number of days of preshipment credit has been increased from 90 days to 180 days. The rate of interest has also been reduced by 2.5 per cent.

(iv) Many items of raw material/fabrics are permitted to be imported under Duty Free REP Scheme and the Import-Export Pass Book Scheme

(v) The scope of advance licensing and Pass Book Scheme has been widened and procedures simplified.

(vi) Under 100 per cent Oriented Units and Free Trade Zones Scheme, facilities for liberal import of capital goods and raw materials alongwith many other concessions are given.

(vii) Government has been giving liberal assistance for sponsoring and funding promotional activities such as market studies, buyer-seller-meets, participation in international fairs and exhibitions.

(viii) The agency commission has been increased and rules for blanket permission for foreign exchange have been substantially liberalised.

Reduction in Export Duty on Coffee.

2530. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reduce export duty on coffee and revise its minimum release price;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present system of fixation and revision of minimum release price is time consuming; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to rectify the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) The revision of minimum release price involves considerable amount of field work and updating of cost-data, which is time consuming. However, minimum release price fixed in a year is taken to determine reserve price for domestic auctions and actual prices fetched are generally higher than the reserve price and compensate the cost escalations for the next 2-3 years.